



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

13 NOVEMBER 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Beverly Hills – Suspect Charged with Hate Crime Against Turkish Restaurant

(U) William Stepanyan, 22, of Glendale, was arrested and booked on suspicion of committing a hate crime, robbery, and burglary, following his participation in the incident at a Turkish restaurant in Beverly Hills. Stepanyan and others are suspected of assaulting employees and damaging the business. The incident is believed to be related to an ongoing conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, a country supported by Turkey, over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh that resulted in large demonstrations across the Los Angeles region, which is home to one of the largest Armenian population in the world.

SOURCE: 12 November 2020, [Patch](#)

(U) Los Angeles – California Man Charged with 'Virtual Kidnapping' Scam from Mexican Prison

(U) Federal prosecutors charged Julio Manuel Reyes Zuniga, 48, with running a “virtual kidnapping” scam that duped at least 30 Americans into paying thousands of dollars in ransom to free family members who were never actually kidnapped. The victims lived mostly in Southern California, including Los Angeles, Orange, and Santa Barbara Counties, the indictment says. Zuniga has been imprisoned in Mexico since 1996 for two murders, with money from the scam making its way to him while incarcerated. A reputed member of the Rancho San Pedro street gang, Zuniga is accused of orchestrating the scam from 2015 to 2018 while he was locked up at the Santa Martha Acatitla Prison in Mexico City.

SOURCE: 12 November 2020, [NBC News](#)

(U) Silicon Valley – Extremists use Fringe Social Networks to Push Post-Election Fraud Claims, Violence

(U) Efforts by mainstream social media to counter misinformation of electoral fraud are being obstructed by messages on smaller fringe networks popular among the far right, then boomeranging back onto the mainstream platforms. Extremist groups, such as white nationalists and conspiracy theorists, some claiming ties to QAnon, which alleges a so-called deep-state plot to undermine the current president, have taken to encrypted messaging apps and online message boards. There, they promote viral videos of unproven voter fraud, urge supporters to ready their guns in support of preserving the current administration. Such discussions have skyrocketed on these alternative platforms since the 3 November election, creating a safe harbor for those pushing claims of fraud and a venue to push for real-world action.

SOURCE: 13 November 2020, [Politico](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) New York – Three Drug Trafficking Operations Dismantled and 54 People Arrested

(U) Watertown – Authorities announced that “Operation Heat Wave” charged 54 individuals with conspiring in the major drug trafficking rings, funneling heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine into the area. Also seized were nearly 3-kilograms of cocaine, hundreds of bags of heroin, fentanyl, and dozens of Oxycodone and Hydrocodone pills. Additionally, the investigation led to an uncovering of approximately 850 bags of heroin mixed with fentanyl and 65-grams of heroin, which could be distributed into another

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650 bags for sale; a street value of approximately \$15,500, and nearly 3-kilograms of cocaine; a street value of more than \$300,000.

SOURCE: 12 November 2020, [ABC News](#)

(U) Pennsylvania – Pittsburgh a ‘Hub’ for White Supremacists

(U) Pittsburgh – Investigators are considering Pittsburgh to be a focal point for white supremacy and extremists, an FBI analyst said Thursday at a symposium on domestic terrorism. As an example, the analyst said 100 members of a neo-Nazi group called the Patriot Front marched down the Boulevard of the Allies over the weekend. Their motto, “Conquer or Die,” makes their ideology clear, he said. Another catchphrase, “Blood and Soil,” is aimed at making America a white country only, with refugees seen as invaders. “They believe they are being invaded,” he said. “They are training for an invasion.”

SOURCE: 12 November 2020, [The Morning Call](#)

(U) Washington – Three APTs from Russia and North Korea Targeted Seven COVID-19 Vaccine Makers

(U) Redmond – Microsoft says it detected three state-sponsored hacking advanced persistent threat (APT) actors that have launched cyber-attacks on at least seven prominent companies involved in COVID-19 vaccines research and treatments. Microsoft traced the attacks back to one threat actor in Russia, called Strontium/Fancy Bear/APT28, and two North Korean hacking groups, Zinc/Lazarus Group and Cerium - which appears to be a new group. The targeted companies were in Canada, France, India, South Korea, and the United States, according to Microsoft.

SOURCE: 13 November 2020, [ZDNet](#)

(U) Utah – Man Pleads Guilty to Impersonating ISIS Leader Planning Terrorist Attack

(U) Salt Lake City – Murat Suljovic, 23, pleaded guilty to one count of attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization by impersonating an Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) leader and sending a bomb-making tutorial video to people online, who were interested in helping with a terrorist attack.

SOURCE: 12 November 2020, [KUTV](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Belgium – Government Expels Danish Right-Wing Activists for Plot to Burn Quran

(U) Brussels – Belgium expelled five Danish far-right activists and banned them for a year for their plans to burn a Quran in a mainly Muslim area of Brussels. The Belgium secretary of state for asylum called them “a serious threat to public order.” According to their Facebook page, the five are associates of the Danish far-right politician Rasmus Paludan, who was expelled from France on Wednesday after signaling his intention to burn a Quran in Paris. Earlier this year, he was jailed for a month in Denmark for a string of offences including posting anti-Islam videos on the social media channels of his Stram Kurs (Hard Line) party.

SOURCE: 12 November 2020, [BBC](#)

(U) Germany – Twelve People Charged in Far-Right ‘Terror’ Plot

(U) Berlin – German prosecutors have laid charges against twelve alleged members and supporters of a far-right terror cell, security sources said Thursday. The men were arrested in nationwide raids in February. Eleven of the suspects stand accused of belonging to a terrorist organization and weapons offenses, according to regional public broadcaster SWR, which first reported on the charges. The twelfth defendant is accused of supporting a terror group. They allegedly planned to spark “a civil-war-like situation, via as yet undefined attacks on politicians, asylum seekers, and people of Muslim faith.”

SOURCE: 12 November 2020, [Deutsche Welle](#)

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(U) Egypt – Five American Soldiers Killed in Helicopter Crash

(U) Sharm El-Sheikh – Five American troops were killed aboard a US Army Black Hawk helicopter that crashed on Tiran Island off the southern coast of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. A mechanical failure is suspected as the cause of the crash, officials said. An investigation is underway. This is the deadliest crash for the US military this year. More Americans were killed in the helicopter crash Thursday than have been killed in combat in Afghanistan this year, which currently stands at four.

SOURCE: 12 November 2020, [Fox News](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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